[4]

REFLEXIONS

Upon a late

PAMPHLET,

INTITULED,

A NARRATIVE

Written by *E. SETTLE.*

WITH A

VINDICATION

OF THE

Proceedings of the NATION from the Aſperſions caſt upon them by that Libel.

Nam te Cur aliquis Sciat fuiſſe ?
Ignotus Pereas, Miſer, Neceſſe eſt.
Non deerunt tamen hac in Urbe forſan
Unus, vel duo, treſve, quatuorve ;
Pellem rodere qui velint caninam.
Nos hac à Scabie tenemus Ungues.

LONDON,
Printed by *J. H.* for the Author. 1683.

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REFLEXIONS
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PAMPHLET,
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A NARRATIVE
Written by *E. SETTLE.*

I Thought my ſelf bound, both by the Duty of an *Engliſhman*, of a loyal Subject, and a true *Proteſtant*, to vindicate the Juſtice of the Nation from the Aſperſions caſt upon it by a late Libel, called a *Narrative* written by *E. Settle*, which I have read over with ſome Attention, and have found it to be a Compendium and Collection of the ſeveral *Popiſh* Pamphlets which ſtole abroad ſince the Diſcovery of the Plot, with intent to ridicule it, frame imaginary Incoherencies, and throw it upon the *Proteſtants*. Out of thoſe Libels it is the Author has made a ſhift to patch up a Narrative, and proclaim himſelf a Villain: He long ſince was ſaid to aſpire to the honour of being the City Poet; but now his Ambition puts him upon Affairs of State, and undoubtedly this Eſſay of his is to ſhew how well capacitated he is for an Imployment in a Catholick Deſign. To ſpeak plainly, I ſee he puts in to be Secretary to the *Jeſuits* in *Newgate*; and truly every Action of his, as well as his own Confeſſion, ſpeak him to be Traytor enough as to deſerve the place: for my part, I'll aſſure him of my Vote; and now *Nath. Thompſon* may chear up, and promiſe *himſelf* ſome Gains after all his Loſſes, ſeeing he cannot want work ſince *Elkanah* will copy Treaſon as faſt as e're the *Jeſuits* Brains can ſpawn it. A Dedication to a Pope *Joan* or *a Fairy Queen* at a *Bartholomew* Fair, bring in but rare and uncertain Profit; but an Imployment of this nature is ſure to be attended with a rich and conſtant Revenue. He is ſaid to have threatned to declare to the World what Gifts and Encouragements he has received from the *Whiggiſh* Party for the promoting of Treaſon. But I perceive by his omitting of it in this occaſion, that he thinks to ſtay, and ſee how far his new Patrons will exceed the *Whiggs* in their Bounties; and then having ballanced the Account, I ſuppoſe we may expect to ſee the Particulars, tho I do not queſtion but his new Maſters will prove by much the moſt liberal and generous Benefactors in all things that tend towards a Conſpiracy. But I ſhall, according to their Deſires, proceed to the giving you a Catalogue of thoſe Remarks and Reflexions which I have made upon this Pamphlet. And for that purpoſe, I ſhall begin with his Epiſtle, wherein he owns himſelf the greateſt Villain that perhaps has been upon the Earth. He ſays, That the Duke *upon condeſcending to hear his Servants in indeed a very humble Cauſe that was depending between his* Royal Highneſs's *Servants and him* Elkanah, *did nothing but the higheſt piece of Juſtice in giving it againſt him; yet that his defeated Vanity begat in him ſuch a malignant Gall and Reſentment, that*

above ſeven Years would not remove; but that the Licenſe of the Preſs, and the Eruption of the late accurſed Plot, had furniſh'd him with the Opportunity, under the Umbrage of a popular Champion, to wreak his own private Spight and Revenge, with accumulated Wrongs, upon a Prince of ſuch Honour and Vertue. Now the Caſe depending, was, as I am credibly informed, as followeth: The *Duke's* Houſe allowed Mr. *Settle* fifty Pounds a Year upon Condition they might have the Acting of all the Plays he made. But he expecting a greater third day, if acted by the King's Servants, notwithſtanding his Penſion, put his Play into their Hands: but his Royal Highneſs having done the Parties Juſtice, *this miſled him into ſo much Spleen and Venome* as he now pretends to recant, *repent, and be aſham'd of.* Now pray you obſerve the Villany of this Fellow, who for the Vanity of having his Play Acted by a *Company* then moſt in Repute, and for the lucre of perhaps a Guiney or two which he might have expected more from that Houſe than the other, he not only broke his Covenants with his Royal Highneſs's Servants, but upon his Diſappointment, proſecuted his Royal Highneſs himſelf with all the Rancor that could ſwell the Heart of the moſt bitter and moſt helliſh Traitor, and cared not tho he involved three Kingdoms in the ruine of that Prince, ſo he could but glut and ſatiate his Revenge. Now indeed I have heard of a *Ravillac*, of a *Brutus*, of a *Faux*; but either the Sufferings of their Country, or their own Biggotry, with the deviliſh Infuſions and Inſinuations of their Prieſts, prevailed with, prompted, and blindly hurried them to their helliſh Attempts and Undertakings: But aſpiring *Ehanah* being reſolved to have the firſt place in the rank of Infamy, ſcorn'd to copy others by making Religion and the Intereſt of his Country the motives of his Actions, but undertook to rival even the Devil himſelf, by purſuing, with all the *Spight and Hatred* imaginable, only for his private Revenge, the Ruine of a Prince whom he declares ſtands poſſeſs'd of the higheſt Honour and Virtue. But pray you ſee in what Colours the Honour and Virtue of this Prince be drawn, in the Author of the firſt Part of the *Character of a Popiſh Succeſſor*, page 5.

And all this his Glory ſhall do, his Glory, the Glory of a Papiſt; a pretty airy Notion, how ſhall we ever expect that ſtory will cheer the Actions of a Popiſh *Succeſſor, when there is not that thing ſo abject which he ſhall refuſe to do, or that Shape or Hypocriſie ſo ſcandalous he ſhall not aſſume when* Rome *or* Rome's *Intereſt ſhall command; nay, when his own petulant Stubbornneſs ſhall but ſway him? As for example, for ave fit he ſhall come to the Proteſtant Church and be a Member of their Communion, notwithſtanding at the ſame time his Face belies his Heart, and in his Soul he is a* Romaniſt; *nay, he ſhall vary his Diſguiſes as often as an* Algerine *his Colours, and change his Flag to conceal the Pyrate. As for inſtance, another fit, for whole Years together, he ſhall come neither to one Church nor th' other, and participate of neither Communion till ignobly he plays the unprincely, nay, the unmanly Hypocrite, ſo long that he ſhelters himſelf under the face of an* Atheiſt *to ſhroud a* Papiſt, *a Viſor more fit for a* Banditto *than a* Prince. *And this methinks is ſo wretched and ſo deſpicable a Diſguiſe, that it looks like being aſhamed of his God.* But this you'll ſay was ſaid when he was in his Spleen; but now that he thinks he has told him his own, and ſatisfied his Reſentment, he begs Pardon, acknowledges his Errors, and repents: but give me leave to ask from whence this Humiliation and Repentance proceeds; When thoſe Words were written by Mr. *Settle*, who has own'd himſelf the Author of 'em, did not that ſad Juncture threaten the Nation with a direful Revolution; and what he now wonderfully marks under his private Reſentments and Revenge, was it not making his Court to a Party whom he conſidered as the mony'd part of the Nation, and ready inclin'd to reward and ſuccour all thoſe who had Sufficiency and Probity: but now that the Tide is turned, that all the Efforts of zealous Patriots for the ſettling the Peace and procuring the Happineſs of their Country have been diverted, that he has loſt his *powerful Champion*, under whoſe *Umbrage* and *Influence* he meant to combat, and that an Inundation of *Toriſme* ſeems to threaten the whole Land, is it not to be ſuſpected that his Recantation and Repentance are only to ſave his Bacon, and that had the ſame Circumſtances continued, Mr. *Settle's* Revenge and Reſentment would have been ſtill alive, and as eager upon the purſuit as ever? &

The

The Truth is, Mr. *Settle's* Reſentment and Revenge was only his Intereſt and his Bread, as long as he had the leaſt Proſpect of receiving any benefit by being an *Anti-Torkiſt*: he ſhew'd himſelf a zealous *Partizan* of the *Whiggs*, vainly hoping perhaps, that his new Patrons would be careful to promote ſo officious a Miniſter as he endeavoured to ſhew himſelf to be; and that Ambition was the ruling Paſſion of his Heart, is plain from what he ſays in the Diſcovery he has made in his Epiſtle *Dedicatory*, where he retracts again what he had but juſt before ſaid, and lays at the doors of ſome of the greateſt Men in *England* the enormous crimes he accuſed himſelf of, ſaying *they were to anſwer for his Sins*. But then again to inſinuate how he went Jig by Jole with thoſe great Men, and to hint how that the World may one day expect to ſee him put in for an Evidences place; nay, to let you know how that he looked upon himſelf as a *Patriot* in thoſe days, he tells you, That *where the true Preſervation of the Proteſtant Religion makes one Patriot (as they call themſelves) Uneaſineſs, Diſguſt, or a Court-grudge, makes twenty, whilſt Reformation is the leaſt buſineſs of thoſe who pretend moſt to it. How many Perſons of the higheſt Quality in the Kingdom (if they would be half ſo ingenious as I am*, mark that) *could tell you, That tho Religion and Property are the pretended Quarels againſt the great Pilots above, their real Grievance is, that their own Hands are not at the Rudder, and the State-Helm is only ſteer'd awry becauſe that ſome happier, ſome envied Court-Darling, ſits at it before them.* And preſently after, *But now tho this plain Confeſſion, how diſadvantagious ſoever to my ſelf, might have been curtail'd into a ſomething more excuſable Error by laying the whole Blame on that more pardonable Folly of being miſtaken, or ſeduced. Yet I declare, I had rather treble my Bluſhes than fly to ſo mean a Refuge as a Lye for any part of an Apology.* Poor *Elkanah*, I am ſorry for thee: I ſee thou art fitter to ſucceed *Oliver's* Porter than take up the Cudgels of an *Iriſh* Evidence, tho indeed they are almoſt as ſilly and as mad as thou; for juſt before he had charged his Sins to the account of ſome of the greateſt Men in *England*, and yet now he ſays that it was his own mere Ambition to be at the Helm, and not any Encouragement or Advice from them. *But that he had finiſh'd his firſt Libel, the* Character of a *Popiſh* Succeſſor, *before it ever ſaw Light. But then indeed*, continues he, *I coveted the Approbation of my* Aldersgate-ſtreet *Patron, and intruſted a Friend to ſhew it him; who, truly, made but little Correction, only he expreſſed his diſlike of two or two Paſſages in it*, and for Amendment, *bid the Author ſpeak more favourably of Rebellion.* Now as I ever ſuſpected Mr. *Settle's* Sincerity, ſo I ſuppoſe every one will now, both that and his Diſcretion too; for how can he think to impoſe and make the World believe that ever the Patron he mentions ſhould make ſuch a blunder in Politicks, as to ſend this worſhipful Author ſuch a Meſſage, a thing ſo contrary to the Caution and Prudence of the whole Conduct of his Life; and his Enemies after they had painted him in the worſt Colours their malice could afford, could never beſpatter him with any raſh Word or Action, much leſs ſo egregious an one as to ſend a Meſſage of this nature, eſpecially to a Poet and a profeſſed one too, People not much admired in this Age for gifts of Continency, Fidelity, or Probity. Beſides, the greateſt Traytors that have ever been upon the Earth, would never own their Treaſon, but ſtill varniſh'd o're their Crimes with ſome ſpecious Pretexts or other, and ſtiled their Rebellions a juſt Defence and a ſelf-ſecurity againſt Tyranny and Arbitrary Power. And that a Man of his Patron's Circumſtances and Capacity ſhould play ſuch a *Noddy's* Prank, as to fall and promote making Panegyricks upon Rebellion, at ſuch a time a day too when he ſtood ſo much in need of being upon his Guard in a Country where ſuch juſtly ſevere Proviſions are made againſt Criminals of that Nature, and when ſo many Enemies were abroad ſcouting and watching to trepan him, in ſuch a time, when he knew that upon the leaſt falſe Step of that kind the Law would be let looſe upon him, and he expos'd to its utmoſt rigour, is, without doubt, what will never find Credit with any thinking and reaſonable Man. But Narrative-*Elkanah's* Impudence in offering to impoſe this upon the World, is unqueſtionably to ſhow with what Title he may lay claim, and how well capacitated he is to ſucceed Mr. *Euſtace Cummins*; tho from a Patriot to an *Iriſh* Evidence I muſt tell you is a conſiderable Fall.

After

After this incredible Inſtance of his Patron's Indiſcretion, he falls to vilifying the Proceedings of the Houſe of Commons, ridiculing the Plot, and beſpattering all thoſe who in any wiſe ſhew'd themſelves zealous to put a Stop to, and prevent the *Growth* of *Popery*. In Anſwer to which, I ſhall only need to quote himſelf, how poor ſoever an Author, and for that purpoſe ſhew him, belabouring and laying at the *Tories* in his Epiſtle before *Abſolom Senior* or *Achitophel Tranſpos'd*, ſays he, *I cannot forbear telling you* Tories, *that your grinning Satyrs againſt the* Whiggs *have this one unpardonable Fault, that the Laſh is more againſt a* David *than an* Achitophel, *whilſt the running down of the Plot at ſo extravagant a rate ſavours of very little leſs than ridiculing* Majeſty *it ſelf, and turning all thoſe ſeveral Royal Speeches to the* Parliament, *on that ſubject, only into thoſe double tongued Oracles that ſounded one thing and meant another. Beſides, after this unmannerly Boldneſs of not only branding the publick Juſtice of the Nation, but affronting even the Throne it ſelf, to puſh the Humour a little farther you run into ten times a greater Vice (and in the ſame Strain too) than what you ſo ſeverely inveigh againſt; and whilſt a* Popiſh *Plot, through want of ſufficient Circumſtances, miſcarries with you, a* Proteſtant *Plot, without either Witneſs or Circumſtances at all, go currant: Nay, you are ſo far now from your former Niceties and Scruples, and diſputing about raiſing of Armies, and not one Commiſſion found, that you can ſwallow the raiſing of a whole* Proteſtant Army, *without either Commiſſion or Commiſſion-Officer; nay, the very when, where, and how, are no part of your Conſideration.* And preſently after he adds, in the ſame Epiſtle, That *the* Tories *who will believe no* Popiſh Plot, *may as juſtly come under the Denomination of Fools as they that* David *tells us*, ſaid in their Hearts there was no God. Now is it not an unparalell'd piece of Impudence in a Fellow to run down the *Popiſh Plot* as he does all along in his Narrative, after having cry'd it up at this rate, and with what Confidence can he ſay how great a Truth ſoever; and therefore I wonder how it came from him, *That in this Reign Law and Juſtice were never ſtretched unleſs to Mercy and Indulgence, and that a too eaſie Forgiveneſs, and receiving pardon'd Enemies, the warm ungrateful Snakes, too near the Boſom of Majeſty, and too high into Truſt and Honours, has been the only fault in the Throne.* Now, can there be a greater Outrage done the Nation than thus to be inſulted for its Indulgence and Lenity, by one who has acknowledged himſelf ſo notorious a Criminal; nay one who gives no other marks of his Repentance than that he quitted a Party that could no longer entertain him, or at leaſt that he no longer could get Advantage by. And then to come and dare the Throne it ſelf with a publick Declaration of his Enormities and Tranſgreſſions, when at the ſame time it is manifeſt he only turn'd *Cat in Pan*, becauſe he could no longer be countenanced by his pretended *Patrons*; who beginning to ſmoak the Mercinarineſs, Sordidneſs, and Treachery of the Fellow, thought it not ſafe to entertain Commerce any longer with Perſons of his Kidney; eſpecially in ſo nice, ſo dangerous a Juncture, when every honeſt Man is not ſecure, be he never ſo well upon his Guard, from ſuch Hell-hounds, who value not whoſe nor how many Lives they ſacrifice with their own Bodies and Souls, to the Devil, ſo that they get but Bread, and reap but ſome ſmall Temporary Advantages. As long as there were any hopes and proſpect of Maintenance and Support by bawling againſt Plots, Popery, and Popiſh Conſpiracies, I warrant you *Elkanah* was as loud as the beſt, and as zealous a Stickler againſt *Jeſuitiſm*, as any one ſoever: but when *Whiggiſm* and *Proteſtantiſm* began to be even a barrener Soil than *Parnaſſus*, when all Evidence and Proceedings againſt Popery began to be diſcredited, and that the Papiſts began to appear again in ſuch Shoals that the Crafty *Trimmers* of the Party thought it no longer Prudence to oppoſe the Torrent, then Sir *Politick Elkanah* thought fit to wheel about; and leaſt the reality of the Converſion of this new Proſelite ſhould be brought into Queſtion, he drew his Pen againſt that very Cauſe which he had as ſtiffly, nay, more vigorouſly defended.

And, to ſhew that Intereſt is the main Spring of this Man's Affections, that he hates and loves only according to it's Dictates, that he ſquares Mens Virtues and Vices according to its Meaſures, and can be fond of and deteſt in a Moment the very ſame Perſons ſutably as they contribute to and jump with his Deſigns;

This

This Man having a Book to preſent to one of his Patrons, he prevailed with his Bookſeller to go with it, dawbing this Patron to him at a high rate, extolling his Wiſdom, Benignity of Temper, and Generoſity, you may be ſure, with I know not how many other fine heroick Qualities: whereupon, away trooped the Bookſeller with the Offring to the Lord; but coming back with diſappointments in his Countenance, and telling Mr. *Settle* that he had delivered his Book, but that the Lord had returned no other Thanks than what conſiſted in Words, he began to curſe and damn the Sordidneſs of his Patron, wiſh'd he had been in Hell when the Thought came into his Head of making him that Oblation: and thus continued he; vomiting out all the other Imprecations that can be urged againſt the moſt deteſtable of all Creatures, until the Bookſeller, to divert this Torrent of Rage, ſhewed him ſome few Guineys which his Patron had ſent him as a Preſent: and then to ſee the wonderful Effect that that Metal has upon Mr. *Settle's* Intellectuals; he immediately ſaw that good Lord again through quite different Opticks, and found in him a thouſand more fine Qualities than he had ever done before; and in ſhort, his Fancy dreſs'd him up as fine and as perfect as a Cherubin.

But, to make an end with his tedious and dull Epiſtle, after he has, as he thinks, ſufficiently burleſqued the Plot, he falls to inſinuating, that it is ſo far improbable that the *French* King ſhould be a Promoter of it, that he ſeems to hint there is great likelyhood of his turning Proteſtant, by reaſon of *his fomenting the Proteſtants Rebellion in* Hungary; *or elſe perhaps a* Turk, *ſince he has brought the* Grand Seignior *into Chriſtendom, and that perhaps not many hours Journey from the very Gates of* Rome: *And indeed, by his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's Conduct, one would be apt to think that he was rather inclin'd* to turn *Muſſelman* than a Proteſtant; for, otherwiſe he would treat the *Hugunots* after an other rate; for I do not hear if they be his Inclinations, that they are over fond of his manner of Courtſhip, and the Careſſes they receive at preſent. After which, he ſays downright, That tho God *knows there is not the leaſt ſign, appearance, or ſhadow of a Conſpiracy, and the Inſufers of all this Poiſon into the unreaſoning Multitude, are conſcious,* 'tis all rank Forgery, *no matter for that; they know whom they have to deal with, the head-long Mobile of* England, *a People of that Conſtitution, that they fear nothing that they do, but all things that they hear: and thoſe very Men that in viſible Dangers, ſhall face the Mouths of Cannons, yet at the apprehenſions of Caſtles in the Air, Potery and Arbitrary Power, from the imaginary Thunder-bolt from that Quarter, ſhall ſtart like Hinds:* 'tis but winding that Horn, *and they fall as flat before the Sound as the Walls of* Jericho; *and nothing but breathing the Spirits of Rebellion into them can rouz 'em out of the Fright on't; and who at laſt are the great firſt Movers in all thoſe national Enflamings. Truly thoſe very Men that bawl'd loudeſt for the Preſervation of his Majeſty's Perſon, againſt Plots and Popiſh Swords, are the numerical Perſons that ſcandalize his Majeſty with Popiſhly affected, to the withdrawing the Hearts of his Subjects, which are the greateſt and ſtrongeſt Guard againſt all Plotters Swords whatſoever.* Thus in the firſt place he makes at one daſh all the *Commons* aſſembled in Parliament to be guilty of Forgery, gives the Lye to all their Votes and their Petitions, and many of the Addreſſes too that came flocking from all parts of *England*; and then beſtows a very handſome Complement indeed upon all the whole Commonalty of *England*, whom he makes a Viſcotary ſort of People, nay, worſe than mere Brutes, acting blindly and without Conſideration, and their Bravery, as he characterizes it, rather Stupidity than Courage. I know not what Stuff Mr. *Settle's* Relations be made of, but take my Word, the many brave Performances of the *Engliſh* all over the World, have ſpoke as much Conduct as Gallantry: and I the more wonder he ſhould baſtard ſo generous a People, in this manner, ſince he himſelf, by what I have ever heard, has none of that blind Boldneſs, unleſs it be in Writing; and then indeed, if he judges of all the reſt of the *Mobile* by himſelf, he had ſome Reaſons for beſtowing upon them this Character. And then as for accuſing thoſe Men *who bawled loudeſt for the Preſervation of his Majeſty's Perſon againſt Plots and Popiſh Swords of being the numerical Perſons that ſcandalized his Majeſty with Popiſhly affected, to the withdrawing the Hearts*

of his Subjects, which are his greatest and strongest Guard against all Plots and Swords whatsoever. Have not all the Votes of both Houses tended to the Preservation of his Majesty against Plots and Popish Swords; nay, have not all the Addresses of *England* been attended with offers of Lives and Fortunes for the Defence of his Majesty against Plots, as well *Popish* as others? And since all those who have bawled lowdest for the *Preservation of his Majesty against Popish Swords are guilty of withdrawing the Hearts of his Subjects*, do but read Mr. *Settle*'s Character of a *Popish* Successor, and I fancy you will find him guilty of Treason.

But, as he says, the Plot has been the Refuge and Sanctuary of all sorts of Villains and Criminals. It has so indeed on all sides; and if any thing can lessen those who are stigmatized with the Name of *Whiggs*, it is the having suffered such Villains as *Elkanah* to herd amongst 'em: But as the *Jesuits* have crept into very Churches and Conventicles, the *Whiggs* could not at first discover nor purge away such kind of Vermine: but when they once found 'em out they fail'd not to clear the Party of them.

And then Mr. *Settle* falls a telling us, that *he dares now look Sense and Quality in the Face*; intimating at the same time, that it is what the *Whiggs* dare not: whereas 'tis well known, there be those who are called *Whiggs* who dare nose both Sense and Quality, and defie the Courage as well as the Arts and Machinations of their Enemies; tho indeed, if there be any of Mr. *Settle*'s Leaven who shelter themselves and think to get Repute by herding amongst that Party, their own Conscience will without doubt check them in such manner, as only to appear, as he says, in *Owl* Light. But if they once come to be known for what they are, amongst the *Whiggs*, they will certainly banish 'em out of the Pales of *Whigland*, seeing they with reality make profession of entertaining no Commerce but with those who entirely abjure all Turbulency and Maligmity whatsoever, and who make Loyalty, Integrity, and Honesty, the rule of all their Actions, and not such as put on those Colours only to subscribe emselves a Patron's Humble Servant.

Now as for his Narrative, I must own I do not understand the very first Line of it, *In the Year 78.* says he, *it pleased those Powers that inspired them to raise.* What, doth Mr. *Settle* mean that it *pleased those Powers that inspired those Powers?* There's Grammar indeed, but no Sense; but there's neither Grammar nor Sense in these Words, as Mr. *Settle* has set them down: but indeed, why should we be so unreasonable as to expect either from a Man who has no meaning in what he writes.

Absalon and Achitophel. Second Part.

Let him rail on, let his invective Muse
Have four and twenty Letters to abuse;
Which if he jumbles to one Line of Sense,
Indite him of a Capital Offence.

After this Blunder at his first entrance, he as madly falls a ridiculing the Discovery of that horrid *Popish* Conspiracy even almost to Profanation, saying, P. 1. that *Oates, Bedlow*, &c. *Who by an ample Discovery (whether given us by the right or left hand of Providence, it matters not,* according to Mr. *Settle*'s Loyalty, the saving the King's Life, the preventing a Massacre of his Subjects, and the burning of his Cities, and the establishing of Separation and Idolatry in his Kingdoms, may as well prove a Curse as a Blessing, since it might as well come from the *Left hand of Providence as the Right*, but to proceed, *it matters not*) *the Discoverers who came enlightned by Repentance and animated by Zeal, or something as active, to betray their old Colleagues and Patrons, the Jesuits and Papists.* Now that *Active* I fancy had a great Ascendant over Mr. *Settle*'s Narrative, and I believe a little Jesuitical Gold *enlightned him with Repentance, and animated his Zeal.* Well, we will for once suppose. Set a *Thief* to catch a Thief. Now on he goes in the same Page, and that this Plot is more remarkable than all that *Rome* and *Pope*, Conclaves or Devils ever manag'd before. *It has so many crosse Windings, Turnings, and Mazes throughout, that whatever Wit, Prudence, or Conduct those great and politick Enemies of our Religion have ever been Masters of in former Intrigues, In this only Plot we*

have

have a Cabal of such extravagant Fools and mad Men, as History affords no Parallel of. This, and some following Paragraphs are to insinuate how improbable a matter it is that such *Subtle Machiavelians* as the *Jesuits* and their Adherents *should take such indirect Measures and opposite means to obtain their great Ends.* And therefore since such cunning undermining Foxes cannot be reasonably supposed to have fallen into such gross Overt-sights and *Infatuation*, all the *Popish* Plot must by consequence be a Sham, and falsly charged upon the Papists. But, with Mr. *Settle's* leave, *Rome*, in the several Attempts it has made for the Perversion, Reduction, and Apostacy of *Great Brittain* to the *Popish* Superstition and Power, having been still frustrated notwithstanding that its Designs were contrived with all the Art and Skill that humane Wit or deviliſh Policy could suggest, and therefore having incurred the just Resentment and Indignation of all those who have in Detestation its abominable Practices; I say, the frequent Disappointments of their Projects may be reasonably supposed to have made 'em use the Precaution that in case they should again prove abortive, and their Machinations be detected, that they might nevertheless appear in such Lights as to seem improbable to the World; and that then let the Issue be what it will it must turn to their Advantage; since if the Plot had taken Effect they had gain'd their main Point. But tho discovered and disappointed, yet the puzzling Circumstances and the Improbability of the means as it might bring the Reality of it in question so it might also the Truth of its former Conspiracies how manifest soever: and they from thence have an occasion of retorting 'em as Contrivances of their Enemies; and by that means purge 'emselves of the Scandal and *Odium* which they had justly brought upon their Church by such unchristian-like, nay, inhumane Undertakings. Thus the Instruments they made use of might many of them be as Mr. *Settle* says, mad Men: and who indeed but mad Men would be the Instruments and Ministers of such Designs. Were the Regicides of the two Kings of *France* otherwise than so? And how many Instances does not History afford us of those religious *Enthusiasts*, who have sacrificed their All for the promoting the Superstitions and Interests of their *Mother Church*. Besides, if Mr. *Settle* would but be pleased to look into the History of the Plot, I do not question but that he will find others besides extravagant Fools and mad Men, in the list of the Conspirators: and as for the Members the *Popish* Cabals were compos'd of, there needs no great reading in Politicks to be informed that in many the greatest Undertakings the principal Contrivers and Promoters do not appear, only detatch one out among them who has the Secret of the Business, and who manages and sets all the other Wheels and Springs a going. Thus in Embassies, made up of several Collegues, seldom more than one has the Secret of the Embassy; and many times, Changes of State and of Religion are often wrought and brought about by persons who seem to have abjured all Commerce with the World, and have devoted themselves to Gardens and to monasticks, or at least a retired sort of Life. So that tho none of the Machiavels and Heroes of the Party had been brought to Light, yet must we therefore believe when their Ministers were discovered, that all was a Sham; tho these Ministers having their Consciences seared, and their Mouths sealed with all that Superstition can invent, were bound upon pain of all the Curses which their false Religion made 'em think themselves liable to, not to reveal their Abettors: so that what Lunacy and Infatuation soever Mr. *Settle* may swell out in the management of the Conspiracy, yet I cannot find the Plan of it to be made of such Cobweb Lawn as he pretends.

First then for their Killing the King.

This dire Undertaking, says Mr. *Settle*, ironically upon so woeful a Subject, p. 1. of his Narrative, *being the great Wheel that was to set the whole Machine a working. The Papists, by virtue of a Summons from Father* Whitebread, *had a general Consult at the White Horse Tavern in the Strand*; at which were present Father *Warren* Rector of *Liege*, Sir *Thomas Preston*, Baronet; Father *Marsh*, Rector of *Ghent*; Father *Williams*, Rector of *Watten*; Sir *John warner*, and Sir *Robert Brett*, Baronets; Father *Pool*, Father *Edmund Neville*, &c. *Who together with* Dr. Oates, *came over Sea upon the said Summons, and met the* English *Fathers at the said Tavern, in all to the number*

of

of fifty Jesuits, on April the 24*th*. 78. *Where, after long and serious Debates, the great Resolve of this general Consult was, that* Pickering *and* Groves *should go on in their Attempt* to assassinate the King's Person; for which, the first should have thirty thousand Masses said for the health of his Soul, and the other 1500 *l.* which Resolve they all consented and signed to, and Mr. *Oates* carried it from *Consult* to *Consult*, and *Chamber to Chamber, to get all their Hands subscribed to it.*

Now this Pickering *and* Grove *were Gunners that had followed the King for several Years for the same murthering Design, but ineffectually*; *Pickering*, as *Bedlow* affirms, having had several fair Opportunities, but miscarried: one time the Flint of his Pistol was loose, another time there was no Powder in the Pan, and another time he had charged all with Bullets and no Powder; for which misdemeanour, he received twenty Lashes of Discipline. But his Comrade *Groves* for *ought we know, never charged his Gun at all; for we read neither of his having any Opportunities, or hitting or missing.*

Here is to be observ'd, pursues Mr. *Settle*, *the great Depth and Wisdom of no less than fifty Politicians. These* Popish *Conspirators, that* (*as it appears*) *had been for several Years together at Fisoling the King, by the hands of these two Heroick Blood-thirsters, are at the Charge and Trouble of coming from several parts beyond Sea: and the great Result of that famous Assembly is, That these two aforesaid Wretches, a Brace of fumbling Fools, that had been so many Years awkwardly about it before; should still be continued and employed for the great Work of murdering the King, without so much as the least Proposition of one wiser Head or better Work-man to come in for a Snack with them.* Now I appeal to all Mankind, if they can find any thing of a Jest in so sad and so serious a Theam, as to be so merry upon, as we find our Author is: nay, on the contrary, would it not raise a Detestation in every true *English-man* and loyal Subject, for a Person, who can thus turn into ridicule an Attempt the most execrable that ever was hatched in Hell; and the very Thought whereof, tho suppose it but a Fiction, capable of creating a Terror and trembling in the most inhumane of *Barbarians*. Besides, where is the Improbability, Incoherence, or Contradiction, in this matter? *Pickering* attempted *to kill him, but the Flint of his Pistol being loose he deferred it for another Opportunity.* Might not this well enough happen by his Negligence, or rather, by God's Providence, who notwithstanding all our Sins, yet thought not fit to deprive the World of a Prince, so much the Blessing and Darling of Mankind, and whose good Nature and Conduct have still found the means to temper and heal those Heats and Animosities which have produced such miserable Effects amongst our neighbour Princes and States; and which had almost brought his own People upon the brink of Ruine.

But this News came over to St. *Omers* in *January*, whereas the Consult for killing the King was not till *April*. Still where's the Absurdity, *Pickering* attempted it, but was prevented through the Providence of God? Nevertheless, in the Consult in *April* following the King's Death was contrived, and they thought fit that their former Instruments should still continue to endeavour the committing that execrable Assassination until they had found fitter Tools for that purpose; perhaps lest if they were not encouraged but disobliged, they might, out of a just check of Conscience and Reluctance, come to reveal the Design. Ay but, says Sir *Ellenab*, Mr. *Oates* has contradicted himself in the Tryal of *Pickering*; for, *notwithstanding the invincible* Demonstration *of* January *Pacquet, he more particularly*

Try. pag. 24. *ascertains at* Pickering's *Tryal, the expreß time to be in* March, *being asked:*

Pag. 2. Sir Ch. L. *Do you know any thing of* Pickering's *doing Penance, and for what?*

Oats. *Yes, my Lord, in the Month of* March *last, (for these Persons have followed the King several years) but he at that time had not look'd to the Flint of the Pistol, but it was loose, and he durst not venture to give Fire; he had a fair Opportunity as* Whitebread *said: and because he miss'd it through his own Negligence, he underwent Penance, and had twenty stroaks of Discipline.*

Well, says Mr. *Settle* upon this, *Now can any thing in nature be more strange, than that* Whitebread *should send the* St. Omer *Fathers in* January, *a perfect Relation of a Crime not committed until* March *following.* Now cannot I for the Heart of

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me see an *Elliotisme* in this whole matter; for might not *Pickering* commit the Crime in *January*, or before, and not suffer the Penance till *March* following: for the Question is only as to his doing of Penance, and the Answer is in *March*.

And *to shew you*, continues our Buffoon, *that this figurative way of speaking is an* Pag. 3. *Elegance that the* Doctor *extreamly prides himself in, you shall have it from one end of the Plot to the other. For another Instance, at this very Consult, in his Narrative, and at* Pickering's *Tryal, the Assembly consisted of fifty* Jesuits; *but at* Langhorn's *Tryal, because it was proved there never was a Room at the White Horse Tavern that could hold above a dozen People, then the aforesaid fifty, upon second Thoughts, were dwindled into eighteen or twenty, and those in several Rooms.* Now says Mr. *Oates* in his Narrative, *p.* 28. *That about nine or ten from* St. Omers, *met in* London, *in Consult with* Thomas Whitebread, *Father* Harcourt, *senior, and Father* Harcourt, *junior*, John Fenwicke, Basil Langworth, William Morgan, John Keines, *Father* Levill, *Father* Ireland, *Father* Blundall, Rich. Strange, *Father* Mico, *Father* Gray, *and others, to the number of fifty* Jesuits, *met at the White Horse Tavern in the* Strand, *when they plotted their Designs for the Society, and ordered* John Cary, *who was also there, to go Procurator for* Rome: *at which Consult thus held in the Month of* May, *the Deponent was present to attend the Consulters, and delivered their Concerns from Company to Company: and then a little after, they left the White Horse, and divided themselves into several Clubs and Companies; some met at Mrs.* Saunders *House in* Wild-street, *others at Mrs.* Fenwick's *at* Ayre's House *in* Drury-lane, *others at Mr.* Ireland's *in Russel-street near* Covent-Garden, *and in other places; all which, tho in several Companies, five or six in a Company, did contrive the Death of the King.* Now he does not say that they were all in a Room; but on the contrary, in *Langhorn*'s Tryal, *pag.* 46. he says, they were divided into several Companies; and *Langhorn*, who had urged this matter for the lessening his Evidence, *pag.* 47. finding Mr. *Oates* justified, *beggs that neither the Court nor the Jury would reflect upon him for pressing that point.* Mr. *Oates*. *And my Lord Chief Justice says in the same Page, You see how unfortunately it happens, the matter had not been much if it had been proved; but it's very unluckey these Persons should be here in Court by whom the other is contradicted, it had been better it were never medled with; that she, namely* Langhorn's *Witness, should be so peremptory in what* Saunders *by know to be false, makes this Contradiction in one thing to give a Suspicion, that all your Witnesses may be false in all the rest.* To which Sir *C. Levins* added in the same Page, *Here is a Gentleman of good Quality that saith there have been fifty in a Room*; neither does he say they were all at a time there: and as my Lord Chief Justice then observed, *There might be twenty in the Morning, and some went away and others came in their Room, and so they might do in divers times of the day*: and that this was so says Mr. *Oats*, *they met there on the 16th. Day at Night.* And therefore methinks this is all plain to be understood, without seeming either Riddle or Mystery, even to as vulgar Capacities as Mr. *Settle*'s.

But then says our doughty Narrative-Writer, The *Reader is humbly desired not to be puzled to imagine how Mr.* Pickering *should present a Gun between a Pistol and a Carbine twice at the King, which once for want of Prime, and another by being charged with all Bullets, would not go off, and yet not apprehended, or not so much as seen by any one of all the Kings attendance, and that too in so publick and open a place as St.* James's Park; *a place where there is not so much as a Bramble or Bryar, or any one Covert throughout it, enough to shrowd a Pigney, much less two Men-slayers, excepting the Osiers within the Canal (but those are moated round, and therefore inaccessible: neither would I have the Reader surprized at Armies of Pilgrims and Legions of black Bills, and other miraculous Tools used in the Popish Service.* Good Mr. *Elkanah*, unless thou hast the ill luck to have Readers as thick-scull'd as thy self, they will not be much puzled to imagine a Traitor sculking behind one of the great Trees, between which, with his Hat or Cloak, or twenty other things, he might have used for the hindering a Discovery, without having *occasion for a misty Cloak or needing to conjure up a Bush, that like* Jonas *Goad should have grown up in one day, and wither down the next.* But poor Mr. *Settle* has this scurvy Quality to think every man as dull and short-sighted as himself; and because, forsooth, there be no Thorns nor

no Bryan, therefore every body, like him, must not see Wood for Tree.

But now for the business of the Massacre: The *Popish* Army *being to be listed for striking immediately upon the King's falling, was consequently to be all listed and armed in the King's Life-time, and all* incognito *in a Protestant Kingdom, and upon having none but such notorious known Papists for the Commanders, it was morally impossible to have drawn in any other Malecontents into the Conspiracy. Besides, the very Proposal of killing any of the Protestants, had been the way to have discovered the Conspiracy, and ruin'd all; and therefore the whole Body of this Army must necessarily have consisted of all Papists. Well, where's the Wonder of all this.* Is it not possible to list Armies in a *Protestant* Country, without being discovered until they themselves think convenient, being tongue-tyed, awed, and spirited by Superstition, Oaths, their own Biggotry, with the Insinuation and perpetual Spurrings on of their Priests? And pray, Why not this to be as well credited as to have a whole Protestant Army rendezvous'd and encamp'd without so much as ever hearing of a Commission or Commission-Office?

Mr. *Oates* and his *Jesuits*, Narrative, *p.* 4. were for *doing the Work with* Popish *Generals and* Popish *Armies: But Mr.* Dugdale *is of another Mind, and he and his* Jesuits *were for quite another sort of Conduct. 'Tis true, he concurrs with Mr.* Oats, *That the King was to fall by as many private hands as the Doctor pleased; but then to subdue the rest of the Kingdom, a Massacre was to ensue.* And because he and *his Partners were not altogether so strong as Mr.* Oats's, *and believed the Popish Party to be too small, and therefore too weak of themselves alone to go through Stitch with so great an Undertaking, they had found this Expedient, viz. They had design'd (he tells you) to the Murder of the King upon the King-killing* Presbyterians, *and then to engage the* Episcopal *Party to rise with the Papists in revenge of the King's Blood, and cut the* Fanaticks *Throats:* and when with their help they had destroyed the Fanatical Party, and weakned the Kingdom by so universal a Blow, then they had decreed to turn their Swords all of a sudden against their Collegues the *Episcopals*. Now I must take the liberty to tell Mr. *Settle*, that this seeming clashing to him in the Evidence of those two Persons, is both a proof of the reality of their Testimony, and that the Papists would leave no Stone unturn'd for the bringing about their Projects. It shews that they did not confer Notes to jump in the same matter for the gaining the more credit to what they deliver'd, but that they impartially and ingeniously declared the Designs of the Papists so far as they had been made privy to them. It shews that the Court of *Rome* had several Ministers abroad for the carrying on its hellish Projects and Conspiracy; and that it had so many Machines a going, that so if the one failed the other might succeed and come to pass. And in fine, it shews that this Plot was no Contrivance of any *Protestant* or *Presbyterian* Party, for any private Designs of their own, as some both wickedly and unreasonably would fain suggest, since if it had, care would have been taken that the Evidence of the Discoverers should have been all of a piece. As *Mr. Settle* says, *p.* 4.

Now if Pickering *had mended his hand, and killed the King, whom God defend, how must the Episcopal Party be possess'd it was done by a Presbyterian hand, seeing it was impossible the* Jesuits *should ever expect that a single Assassinate in such a place as* St. James's Park, *in the Face of the Court, and approaching so near as within Pistol shot, upon the Murther of the King, should ever escape seizing, either by the hands of the Nobility or his Majesty's Servants that always attended him.* In Answer to which, Is it not reasonably to be supposed that *Pickering* having undertook that Assassinate out of a motive of Religion, as a thing highly meritorious, since it so extraordinarily promoted the Interests of *Mother Church*, would, out of the same motive of Religion, charge the Presbyterian Protestants to be his Abetters, which undoubtedly he was bound to do under the severest Penalties his Superstition and Biggotry might make him think himself lyable to. The supposing this will be no straining of the Point to any indifferent Reader, especially one should think to one of *Mr. Settle's* Constitution, who has so boldly laid open in his *Character of a Popish Successor*, with what entire Submission and Devotion the Members of the Church of *Rome* do deliver themselves up a Sacrifice for the promoting it's Causes and Interest. Besides, seeing the Papists were ever hovering about the King's Person

Person, upon the blow being given, might not they, out of a pretended officious Zeal, fall upon the Assassinate, mangle him in such manner as to render him altogether unknown again for the Person he was, and then lay at whose Door they pleased, either by real or forged Words, that execrable Murther. And upon this the Church of *England* men, out of a just Resentment and Indignation for the loss of their All, in so great, so divinely good a Prince, are reasonably to be supposed, would revenge it with all the heat and all the vigour imaginable: and might not then they themselves have been given up as a Prey to their Enemies, and those Throats which escaped the ensuing *Popish* Massacre, have been cut and dispatched by the *Popish* Army: and by *Mr. Settle*'s leave, this is no unprecedented Instance of *Popish* Barbarity; and not only *Europe*, but other parts of the World, have seen the hideous Scenes, and been the sad Theatres of their Inhumanity. In the *West-Indies*, with what unheard of Cruelty did they not butcher the Natives, hunting them like wild Beasts, and having them torn to pieces by their Dogs. In the Isles of *St. Domingo*, those that escaped their Dogs they put into the Mines, keeping the Women from the Men to hinder the Generation: and thus in seven Years time destroyed all the Natives of that populous Island. *And therefore no Wonder that after they had mow'd down the Inhabitants of the Kingdom* by so universal a Blow as a general Massacre, that they had an Army rais'd too for the destroying *even the very Gleanings of the Field.* Their former Massacres, how general and how destructive soever, had not that effect they proposed to themselves by their not going through Stitch with em; they saw their Errors, and were resolved to retrieve 'em with a Vengeance: and now being grown expert in the Trade, nothing but *Root* and *Branch* would serve their Turn.

Now as for *Mr. Settle*'s admiring what need the Pope had in his long Bull, read by Dr. *Oats* in *Blunden*'s hands, after the Disposal of Bishopricks, Archbishopricks, *&c. for want of English-born Priests enough for all the Dignities of the Church of* England, *to decree such and such* Spaniards, *and other Foreigners, should supply that Want, and order such for reading Philosophy and Divinity in all great Towns and Colledges, and such and such to be employed in Catechizing and Preaching at the Altar*: says *Mr. Settle* upon this, that it would have been all in vain, *seeing three surviving Families had been more than all the Families in* England *could have produced.* Does *Mr. Settle* imagine that such a Country as *England* would have been long unhabited, or does he not think that the Priests themselves out of their pious Inclination, for the encreasing the Lord's Flock, would do their best for the propagating Generation? They would, without doubt, Mr. *Settle*. We see they do it daily out of their Charity to Mankind: besides, the decoying 'em with the hopes of the fat Benefices of *England*, was the only means to make 'em bleed and contribute largely towards the carrying on the Design.

But, pursues *Mr. Settle*, p. 6. *What if by a new turn of State* Britannus *should be alive at last, and maugre this fatal and universal Doom, several thousands of these sentenced Heretick's should live many a fair Summer's day after it*: for *Mr. Bedlow*, continues he, *says, that after the landing an Army of ten thousand Men from* Flanders *at* Bridlington Bay, *to surprize* Hull *Garrison, and the Lord* Petre *and* Powis *having another Army to march to* Pembrookshire *to meet a third Army of twenty or thirty thousand Men, who were to land at* Milford Haven, *being an Army compos'd of all Religious Men and Pilgrims from St.* Jago *in* Spain; *and whatever should happen that their Strength as they said might be sufficient, they had forty thousand Men (a fourth Army ready in* London) *besides those that would in the Alarum be pulled at every Ale-house Door, to have kill'd the Souldiers as they came out of their Quarters*: besides a sixth Army, continues *Elkanah*, of Mr. *Oats*'s from *France*, expressly to have been let in upon the King's Death. Now amongst all these formidable Armies the Edge of Mr. *Dugdale*'s Massacre is a little abated; for here, as *Bedlow* tells the House of Lords, *after* Conyers *had kill'd the King*, Keins *the Duke of* Monmouth, Prichard *the Duke of* Buckingham, *Mr.* Right *my Lord* Shaftsbury, *Mr.* O Neal *my Lord* Ossory, *and one, whose Name he had forgotten, the Duke of* Ormond; after all those Persons were killed, *the Papists did not question the power of the rest of their Counsels but that they should out-do them; for they would give such great Pay, that all sorts of*

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Malecontents and People that depended on their Fortune, would be ready to ſerve them. All this performed, as he tells you afterwards, *they deſigned to eſtabliſh their Government ſecure enough; for they intended utterly to extinguiſh all ſorts of People that would not really be converted to the Church of* Rome, *and to prove it, perſecute their neareſt Relations that were obſtinate.* Now do not I ſee in all this matter any claſhing between the Evidence of the Diſcoverers, not between what they had before depoſed; for as there be Garriſon Towns, and thoſe in the hands of *Proteſtants*, ſo there was need of Armies to reduce 'em in caſe they could not be ſurprized by other means: but in caſe they met with ſuch Oppoſition at thoſe places as might be a *Remora* to their Deſigns, their buſineſs was to invite all *Malecontents* and People that depend upon their Fortune as Souldiers are, who were to defend theſe Towns to forfeit their Truſts and be ready to ſerve them.

But after Mr. *Settle* has thus prodigiouſly ſhewn the many and wonderful turnings and windings of *French Armies*, &c. p. 6. *he falls to prove the Work was to have been done by no Armies at all*; ſince, he ſays, it appears viſibly, that the Deſign had been ripe for Execution many Years before the *April* Conſult, ſeeing *Pickering* and *Groves had been ſeveral Years dogging the King for the murthering purpoſe, by the* Jeſuits *Order*, and that the Commiſſions for the *Engliſh* Forces were not delivered till the Months of *May*, *June*, *July*, *Auguſt*, 78. Now may it not be reaſonably ſuppoſed, that the Deſign of murdering the King being firſt midwived by the Jeſuits, they thought that firing *London* and killing the King in the hurry, would ſo embroyl the Nation, as to make way for ſome ſuch Foreign or Domeſtick Power as ſhould abſolutely depend on them, or at leaſt ſecond and maintain their Practiſes. But the Project coming to be canvaſs'd by the Court of *Rome*, and eſpous'd by thoſe of *France* and *Spain*, they concluded more Precaution and Ceremony was to be uſed in this Undertaking; they conſidered that the embroyling of a Nation, and the Death of a King, had been very far before from doing their Buſineſs, and therefore agreed to aſſiſt and ſecond the pious, tho blind, Intention of the *Jeſuits*, and for that purpoſe to have in readineſs both within and from without ſuch Forces, that *whatſoever ſhould happen, their Strength, as they ſaid, might be ſufficient.* Thus that rough, weak, and ill-ſhapen Draught and Project of the Prieſts, was refined, ſtrengthned, and poliſhed by the practical and vigorous *Matchiavellians* of the Age, and ſuch care taken that the Iſſue and Succeſs muſt have been infallible, if God, out of his Mercy, had not been pleas'd to diſappoint 'em by putting it into ſome of their Inſtruments Hearts to make a timely Diſcovery.

Pag. 7.

Lords Journ. 12 day of Nov. 78.

Nevertheleſs, let Mr. *Settle* not think to render the matter improbable, by hinting the *Majority* of the *Proteſtants* throughout the Kingdom to ſurpaſs by much the Papiſts, ſeeing the latter meant to decoy the Church of *England-men* into the Fact; which though they ſhould not have effected, yet ſo unexpected a Surpriſe upon People unprepared, and at Diſſention and Diſtruſt among themſelves by Perſons martialized and uſed to Arms, as is well known the Papiſts had been, and who for a long while before had been making all things ready for the well managing of their Undertakings, they might well enough promiſe themſelves Succeſs, each not needing to be an *Almanzor* or a *Mars*, or have the Strength and Soul of a *Hercules*.

Nar. pag. 7. The *Jeſuits fired* London, ſays E. Settle, *with an Intention to kill the King in the Hurry, and maſſacre the Proteſtants upon't: and yet ſee the oddneſs of the Deſign; they laid* London *in Aſhes, and yet were not at all provided to go through with the Work. And why, as the Doctor expreſly tells us, they were not ſecure of the Duke,* *Nar. pag. 8.* *and for that the King was ſo induſtrious about the Fire, that they could not find in their Hearts to do it; (a very odd Qualm of Pity in a Plotter*, continues this Villain, *and an extraordinary ſtop to a Conſpiracy of almoſt a hundred Years growth.* At this prophane rate does this Fellow ridicule the Effects of the Goodneſs of God, and turns his Bleſſings into a Subject of Scorn and Laughter; whereas there is nothing of Abſurdity or Incoherence to give occaſion to all this Mirth; for conſidering the ſadneſs of the time, a heavy War upon the Nation weakned by a dread-

dreadful Sickneſs: and now *London*, that may be called the very Soul of it, being conſumed by Fire, if God too would have ſuffered them to have effected their Regicide, might not they have reaſonably expected to batter down the Bulwark that had ſo long oppoſed the entrance of *Popery*.

But Mr. *Settle* is pleaſed to wonder that no inquiry has been made after the Booty which the *Jeſuits* pillaged during that dreadful Conflagration. 'Tis well known, that many beſides the *Jeſuits* enriched themſelves by pilfering at that time, and why ſhould not they who had prepared themſelves for it and had poſted themſelves accordingly. *Nar.* pag. 8.

Beſides, ſays Mr. Settle, *they made uſe of Fire-balls, and thoſe made of Sheeps-fatt, no more an Ingredient (to my Knowledge) for the Compoſition of a Fire-ball than for a Sack-Poſſet; and might be as honourably ſworn into the one as the other.* Now as for the Effects and Performances of theſe Fire-works, Mr. *Settle* has yet made, take my Word they have invalidated his Authority upon the point, and ſhewn that his Skill and Knowledge is as ſmall and ſtinted in them as they are in his Narrative, Poems, and Plays. *Nar.* pag. 8.

The Plot in *IRELAND*.

But there let us take our leave awhile, ſays Mr. Settle, *of the Rebellion*, &c. *in* England, *and ſee how the poſture of Affairs ſtands in* Ireland; *for the doing of which, we can have no greater Light than from the Tryal of* Oliver Plunket, *late Titular Archbiſhop of* Ireland; *where indeed we find the whole* Iriſh *Plot ſo to Admiration made out, that even Infidelity it ſelf muſt tremble at ſuch undeniable Proofs, and unanſwerable Demonſtrations, and to the Confuſion of* Rome, *all this undoubted Truth delivered by Oracles, ſworn home by no leſs than the very Oaths of Members* even of the Popiſh Clergy it ſelf. *Nar.* pag. 8.

The whole Sum of which Conſpiracy is as follows. *Oliver Plunket* was made Primate of *Ireland* by the Election of the King of *France*; and upon his Election, he made theſe Conditions with the King of *France*, to raiſe men to joyn with the *French*, to deſtroy the Proteſtant *Religion*, the ſaid *Plunket* having engaged to get *Dublin*, *London-derry*, and all the Sea Ports into their own hands, to levy War and deſtroy the Proteſtant Religion, and that they ſhould have the King of *France* to protect them, during Life; as *Mac Keigh* ſwears.

In all the Iriſh *Plot*, continues Mr. *Settle*, p. 9. *We have a Model of State-affairs extreamly different from thoſe in the Engliſh Plot:* as for Example, We find the *French* King not half ſo generous in carrying on the *Catholick Cauſe* in *Ireland* as in *England*: and good reaſon why, Mr. *Settle*; for I hope *Ireland*, how much improved ſoever, will not yet a while be put into Ballance with *England*, tho indeed another *Popiſh* Plot or two might do much in *England*; nicer and more vigorous meaſures were to be taken: the *Iriſh* have been in Subjection time out of mind, and therefore could the eaſier digeſt a new Maſter ſince he brought along with him the Exerciſe of their own Religion; but the *Engliſh* are not of a Temper to brook the name of a Conqueſt, or the being made a Dependance to another Crown; all hands at work would be little enough to effect their Deſigns upon them: but in *Ireland* they already had an inſtance how fat a Maſſacre would go, tho the ſtanding Forces there, and the ſteadineſs of the Government did require conſiderable Aid and Aſſiſtance. And at the ſame time ſuppoſing the *French* King the Abettor, and deſigning that Kingdom as a Morcel for his own uſe, it was not ſo unpolitick in him as Mr. *Settle* pretends, to drain the *Iriſh* of what he could, ſeeing that was the means of having them depend the more abſolutely on his Will and Pleaſure. Neither was the Conduct of the Court of *Spain*, in this matter, ſuch a Solleciſme at this time, if we conſider, how prevalent the Counſels of the *Jeſuits* have been of late Years, in the whole management of the Affairs of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, even to their manifeſt Detriment and decay of that Family; ſo that this Undertaking and Conſpiracy being a Brat of the *Jeſuits*, and they having ſuch an Influence over his *Catholick Majeſty*'s Counſels, they may well enough be ſuppoſed to have obtain'd the mentioned Aſſiſtance and Succour, to be connived at and allowed of, ſince moſt of the Forces out of his Catholick Majeſty's Dominions ſeem ſo many reli-

gious Volunteers, hapning to merit by ſuch a pious Expedition; the reſt might probably be raiſed and maintained out of the Prieſts Pockets, for the carrying on and promoting ſo holy a Cauſe, and only with the Connivance, as I ſaid, of his Catholick Majeſty.

Thus the *Spaniſh* Army to be landed at *Carlingford Haven*, that other of thirty thouſand *Jago* Pilgrims to land at *Milford Haven*, and the ten thouſand *Flandrians* likewiſe to be landed at *Bradlington Bay*, are to be looked upon, as I ſhould think, as Forces, maintained by the common Purſes of that Part of the Catholick Church in the King of *Spain's* Dominion; who out of it's Zeal for ſo religious an Undertaking, ſhould ferrit their Baggs. And what might the more invite them to do it, was, that this Money was only a kind of Venture which promiſed ten-fold Return, ſeeing they were to be ſetled in all the Pariſh-Churches and Benefices of the Kingdom. And the Prieſts have been found libetal enough in caſes that redoun'd to their profit, and to the augmenting the Pale of the Church, whereas they have ever been found to be moſt damnable ſtingy and tenationary in all things that tended to the relief of the State.

Nar. pag. 10.

But the high and mighty King of France, *ſays* Mr. Settle, *comes under the ſame Premunire of playing the Fool or mad-man, by attempting to bring a Navy into that very Port of all* Ireland *ſo notoriouſly known to carry ſcarce Water enough for a Fiſher-boat, much leſs a Man of War to ride in; beſides paſſing through all the dangerous* Iriſh *Seas, in the face of all the* Iriſh *Ports, and the Mouth of all the Kings Men of War, by ſo long and hazardous a Voyage, to give the three Kingdoms ſufficient Alarum to prepare for their Oppoſition.* Now tho the Popiſh Plot was diſcovered, were there not ſtill Attempts made for the burning the Navy, was not the Maſſacre to be made and all the Ports ſecured, and might not the paſſing through thoſe Seas be deſign'd for the keeping the three Kingdoms in Suſpence of their Intention? and while they lack looks to themſelves they might the better effect their Deſigns upon that, and after landing might not the Fleet change its Port?

Nar. pag. 10.

Ay but, ſays Mr. *Settle*, this fooliſh *French* King is at the Charge and Trouble *of munning out a Fleet to land an Army in* Ireland: *When, to the Shame of all ill Memories, both he and all his States-men had quite and clean forgotten they had landed one there already: for, does not the infallible* Dr. Oates *give us to know, in his Examination before the Parliament, in theſe very Words,* That the *French* King had already landed a great Army in *Ireland*, being thoſe Forces that left *Meſſina*; and it is to make 'em up 25000 men, which are to joyn with the *Iriſh* Papiſts in a ſecond Maſſacre, to fire the City of *Dublin*, and deſtroy the Duke of *Ormond* and his Adherents: and this part of the Conſpiracy was managed by *Coleman*, &c. And why again not theſe 25000. as well as the Whiggs inviſible Army? Why might not their Deſigns be diſappointed upon the Diſcovery of the Plots, and they retire again, or forbear acting untill better ſtrengthned and prepared for the bringing their Deſigns about. And this is not the firſt time the *French* King has been out in his Meaſures, and as Mr. *Settle* ſays, *Humanum eſt errare.*

But on goes blundering *Elhanah p.* 11. in this manner: *Now it will not be amiſs for our farther Light into this matter, to ſearch the Mine from whence the Treaſure comes to defray the Charges and to be expended to ſupport ſo vaſt a Body of Cut-Throats. For example, What more unconſcionable Diſproportion could there be between the* 15000 *l. contracted for and no leſs than* 1000 *l. bid at firſt Word to Sir* George Wakeman *to poyſon the King, and but that inconſiderable Triſle of but eighty Pounds given to the four* Iriſh *Ruſſians, when moſt of them were Gentlemen of great or greater Quality and Fortune than Sir* George: *and the whole Sum of eighty Pound, no more than either of them would have valued ſpending in a Week; nay, and when more and above, Sir* George Wakeman's *Undertaking had not the tenth part of the danger attending it, his Buſineſs being only the Legerdemain of ſlipping a Pill extraordinary into the King's Broth or ſo, and theirs to aſſaſſinate him in the face of open day.* Well, theſe generous Aſſaſſinates perhaps deſired nothing more than the Glory of the Fact, with what could furniſh a Revel and a Treat after the Perfor-

mance

mance of the Fact, or if they did, it might be the Employments and Estates of the massacred and assassinated Persons; and tho Sir *George's Undertaking had not the tenth part of their Danger attending it*, yet being like most of his Profession, of a mercenary avaricious Temper, was resolved to make the best Market he could; whereas Mr. *Settle's* Estate and Quality Ruffian bravely undertook the thing, rather out of Gallantry than Interest, and left it to *Groves* and *Bedlow*, and such sort of beggarly Fellows, to make a Trade of and their Fortune of Assassination.

Well but, continues Mr. *Settle*, in his Narrative, p. 11. *How close sted soever the Jesuits were in the joyful Reward of twenty pound a Man to Persons of their Rank and Character, for killing the King; yet not long after, their bounteous Liberality was somewhat more open-handed, when they offered* William Bedlow, *alias* Bedloe, *originally the Son of a Cobler, and at present a Runner of Errands, no less than the Sum of four thousand pound to hire him to kill Sir* Edmundbury Godfrey, *and that too when himself was but to be one of the four or six that were to do it; witness his Oath before the House of Lords.* *William Bedlow* saith in his Oath, that this Examinant being treated with by Mr. *Lepharre*, and Mr. *Walsh*, Jesuits, about the beginning of *October* last they offered him a Reward of four thousand Pound if he would be one of the four or six that should kill a Man that was a great Obstacle to their Design (*viz.* Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*, *as it proved afterwards*) *a very round Sum together if the other five were to be as well paid.) But here the Reader is desired to take Notice of the most matchless Example in* Mr. Bedlow *that perhaps we has met with, instead of* they have met *with*, if Mr. *Settle* will allow me to make it true Grammar for him, *and the vast and wonderful difference of some Mens Consciences, to the very Gentlemen to whom 500 l. was less in their Pocket than five pound in Mr.* Bedlow's *could notwithstanding bite at 20 l. a Man to murder no less than a King, when on the contrary Mr.* Bedloe *refused 4000 l. to murder but a poor Justice of the Peace; for, as we have it in the aforesaid Oath, before the House of Lords, thus following, He this Deponent promised (viz. to Lepharre* and *Walsh*) to be one to do it upon their giving him notice: afterwards (*viz.* the Fryday before Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey* was missing) Mr. *Lepharre* met him this Deponent about four a Clock in *Gray's-Inn* Walks, and appointed to meet him again the next day at the same place, about the same hour, to do that Business, that upon his taking the Sacrament to do it, he this Deponent should have the Money paid down; but he not liking the Design, fail'd of meeting him, &c. *Is not this as I said before, a wonderful piece of self-Denial; but as wonderful as 'tis, here's the Fellow out to come.* Now you may be pleased to observe, that this wonderful piece of Self-denial which Mr. *Settle* so turns into Droll, is, that Mr. *Bedlow* should refuse 2000 *l.* in a Porteridge in carrying the dead Body into the Fields; such an attractive Sum, says Mr. *Settle*, 'tis a *Miracle*; truly it would be so if all men were of Mr. *Settle's* Constitution, who perhaps is none of those squeamish'd and nice *conscienced Men*: but what if such a round Sum were offered him, he would again undertake to write more *Characters of a Popish Successor*, tho he had not the Spur and Motive of his Spleen and Gall upon Justice being done against him. But Mr. *Settle* will be confoundedly mistaken if he judges of all men by himself; take my Word he'll hardly find his like: and therefore let him not think it so very *stupendious*, *That a Man privy to all the Popish Designs, one of their Commission Officers, and consequently to be engaged in all the Protestant Bloodshed intended, (the King's only excepted) and that this Man should all of a sudden stagger at one poor Heretick's Dispatch, tho for 40000 l. Reward, or if that would not down, to refuse 2000 l. and all but for the sixth part of the Luggage of one poor Creature but to Primrose-Hill.* Now many men, without it's being look'd upon as a Prodigy, have been known keen and eager upon undertaking a Design, and yet have faultered and drawn back when it came to Execution. The circumstances of Mr. *Bedlow's* Fortune might make him engage in the *Popish Plot*, but at the same time be glad to have the Drudgery of it performed by others; and tho such considerable Offers might tempt some of our late Narrative-Writers to engage in as base a Murder, yet the Generosity of some mens Tempers, how meanly soever born, is not to be bribed and wrought upon into an ill thing; or rather, the Providence of God, who had otherwise ordain'd, might make use of the Proposal of that very Act, to create a Reluctance in him, and so work him to a Discovery

Nar. pag. 12.

Nar. pag. 12.

of

of that and the rest. And as for the *vast difference* between the Reward to be given for the Murder of the King and that of the four *Russians*, and that to Mr. *Bedlow*, *but to murder a good Justice of the Peace*; it's manifest that the Papists were then in a strange Consternation upon the Discovery of their Conspiracy, which they knew not how to retrieve, but by stifling it in the Blood of that unfortunate Gentleman, and therefore cared not how lavish they were in their Offers for that Purpose. And how improper soever that Assassination may seem to set their Affairs to right again, yet being at that time in such Trouble, seeing all their long and painful Projects upon the point of being quash'd: I say, all this alone, without the help of Heaven, was sufficient to confound their Intellectuals, and make 'em produce nothing but abortive Resolutions.

But then, says *Mr. Settle*, Narrative, *p.* 12. & *p.* 13. that *Bedlow* and *Prance* disagree as to the Persons and other Circumstances of that horrid Murder. Now as for their disagreeing, *Miles Prance* owns to have been present and have had a hand in that Murder; Mr. *Bedlow* knows it only by a Relation; and by a Relation too of a thing which he had already refused to have a hand in, and at a time he was so much suspected by that Party, as that they made him take the Sacrament twice a day for fear he should reveal. Now he being a suspected Person, and knowing the Murder to be committed by Papists, seeing they would have had him concern'd in it, and therefore in the Account they gave him thereof, might vary from the Truth, that so in case he should fail them, they might prove the thing could not happen according to his Testimony, and so baulk the Evidence: and a Story was of necessity to be flourish'd up for a Person whom they look'd upon as wavering, and in whom such a sign of Distrust as the not making him a Confident might create such a Distaste, as might prove of very ill Consequence. Now as for *Mr. Settle's* pretended Improbability, *p.* 13. that the Assassinates should have notice of his Coming. Did not *Hill* on the twelfth of *October* go to Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey's* House in the morning, and spoke to him, tho what was said not being known then? Taking his Leave, he went to *Girald* and *Green*, and with them staid hard by, waiting Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey's* coming forth, which about ten or eleven a Clock he did, as he used to do, all alone; they dog'd him up and down (as they said) all that day, till about six or seven a Clock in the Evening; and then *Green* came to *Prance's* House, and told him that they had set him, but did not name where, any further than by *St. Clements*, and that *Prance* must make all haste down to *Somerset* House, to the Water-Gate or Passage westward in the *Strand*, that goes into *Somerset* House, down to the Water-side; and there he should find *Kelly* and *Berry*, which he did, and they three waited there till about nine a Clock at Night; then *Hill* came in haste and told them he was coming; and that they must pretend a Quarrel, and he would fetch him in: *Kelly* and *Berry* did begin a seeming Quarrel; and just as Sir *Edmundbury* was passing by the Water Gate, *Hill* (who was acquainted with Sir *Edmundbury*, and Sir *Edmundbury* with him as having dealt with him formerly), steps out in a great deal of haste, and entreated *him, for God's sake, to come in, for there were two Men a quarrelling, and he was afraid there should be Bloodshed*; whereas his Presence, being a Magistrate, would presently quiet them. He refused at first; but the other was so importunate, that at last he consented, and *Hill* entred the Gate first, after him Sir *Edmundbury*, and just behind him followed *Girald* and *Green*; as soon as they were in *Prance* went up to the Water-Gate to watch that no Body should come in that ways, and *Berry* was to secure the Stairs and Passage by the Chappel; but first he and *Kelly*, the pretended Quarrellers, stood about the Rail by the Queens Stables, and as Sir *Edmundbury* went down towards 'em, *Green* suddenly threw a twisted Handkerchief about his Neck, and forthwith all four pull'd him down and throtled him, so as he could make no more noise: then they threw him behind the Rails, and gave him many violent Punches on the Breast with their Knees, and *Green* wrung his Neck almost round with all his force: *Prance* and *Berry* being come to them he was quite dead, they all helped to carry the Body into Dr. *Godwin's* Lodgings, where the said *Hill* liv'd, who went before and opened the Door; when they were in they carry'd him up five or six Steps into a little Room on the right hand, and there left him that Night, and Sunday all day and night.

The History of the Popish Plot. p. 4.

On

On *Munday* Night, *Hill* and ſome others of them removed him into a Room in the Upper Court, and *Prance* having a mind to ſee where they had laid him, they all went with a Dark-Lanthorn thither, and look'd on the Body; at which time Mr. *Bedloe* ſaw Mr. *Prance* and knew him again long afterwards.

On *Tueſday* Night they carried him to another Room in the ſaid Long-Entry over againſt Dr. *Godwin*'s Lodgings. And on *Wedneſday* Night, being a removing it from thence, to the Room where it was at firſt, *Prance* happening to come upon them at that Inſtant they all ran away, and left the Body in the Entry, till he call'd to them, and then they came back, and laid it as at firſt in the little Room.

Then that they might murther his Reputation as they had his Perſon, the two wicked Prieſts, *Girald* and *Kelley*, advis'd to carry him out into the Fields, and leave him there with his own Sword, in ſome obſcure place, that he might be ſuppoſed to have murther'd himſelf; and therefore, his Money, Rings, *&c.* were all to be left with him. This being agreed they reſolved to carry him out at Night, and in Order thereunto, *Hill* procured a Sedan, into which about twelve of the Clock they put him, *Prance* and *Girald* carry'd him out at the great Gate, *Berry* the Porter opening the Door, who to avoid the Souldiers taking any notice, had invited them into his houſe, with Drink and Tobacco. Thus ſometimes *Girald* and *Prance*, and ſometimes *Kelly* and *Green* carried him up towards *Soho Fields*, hard by the *Grecian* Church, and there *Hill* attended with a Horſe, and they ſet the Body up before him, and clapt the Sedan into a Houſe as was building, there, but unfiniſh't, till they came back, and then *Gerald* the Prieſt ſaid, *I wiſh we had all ſuch Rogues as ſecure as we have this*, then Prance, becauſe he was a Houſe Keeper, returned home, and the other four went away with him, one leading the Horſe, *Hill* riding and holding the Body, and the other two walking by.

They carried him into an obſcure place, about two Miles out of Town, towards *Hamſtead*, near a place called *Primroſe-hill*, and therein a Ditch they left his Body, *Girald* having run Sir *Edmund*'s own Sword through him, and left it in him, but the Scabbard and his Gloves they laid on the Bank, at a ſmall diſtance.

And now with Mr. *Settle*'s leave, where's the abſurdity in all this, where the two-fold way of Trappanning him, *the two-fold fatal place, the two-fold murther, and the double ſet of Night-Walkers*, but blundering is natural to *Elkanah*.

And he can puzzle a Cauſe with as much eaſe,
As Hoggs *eat Acorns, or tame* Pidgeons *Peaſe.*

But pray ye let us ſee Mr. *Settle*'s moſt remarkable Obſervation, which is that none or few of all thoſe numerous Letters and Pacquets, ſeen, carryed, read, and Intercepted by the ſeveral Diſcoverers ſhould be couch'd in Cyphers, ſeeing they carried no leſs then the whole Sum of all their Conſults in *England*, or elſewhere; and all the ſeveral Propoſals and Methods, for Regicides, Maſſacres, Aſſaſſinations, and all the reſt of their Villanies *whatſoever*. Now, might not 48 for the King, 66 for *London*, or Barly-broth for the Parliament, with ſuch like ſtuff, ſuffice ſo to blind and perplex the ſence, as to conceal the meaning of it from all others than thoſe who had the Key of thoſe Cyphers, and might not thoſe other Letters that had no Cypher be conveyed by ſuch hands and means as they might rely on for the ſafety of the Delivery, and be Couch't in ſuch terms though not in Cypher, as to ſeem to an unprepoſſeſſed Reader to contain nothing but indifferent Matters, though they were ſtufft up with rank Treaſon. But why ſhould we wonder that Mr. *Settle* is not acquainted with the Niceties of that kind, ſeeing he ſeems to have monopolized Ignorance.

The next Subject of Mr. *Settle*'s Admiration, is the Preaching Treaſon even to the School-Boys, and *tho' all theſe Children ſo grown up as to underſtand Moralls as well as Letters, and yet not one of them from that day to this ſo unlucky as to tell Tales out of School.* *Nar.* p. 14.

May they not have, and do they not ſtill teach their Morals and their Principles under other Diſguiſes and Appearances than thoſe of Jeſuites? or thoſe that are known for ſuch may not they have ſuch a ſuperſtitious awe upon their Scholars as to hinder them from babling?

Another thing our Narrative-Spark carp's at in the Conduct of the *Jeſuites*, in their deſign of Penſioning as one may ſay, *The* Members *of the* Houſe of Commons, *for the obtaining Liberty of Conſcience, and of Collecting a round Sum of money for that purpoſe when upon murthering the* King, *and ſubjecting the Nation by the Sword not only the Parliament had been diſſolved, nay, and a* Members *Brains poſſibly as eaſily knock't out as* *Nar.* p. 14.

Plow-jobbers, *but more than all this, upon the* Papal Empire's *entring by Conquest, they*
Pag. 15. *might have put an end to the very Constitution, and being of Parliaments.*

Well, might not that be done in the Interim, in case any Obstacle should happen to the putting in Execution their main Plot, does it not appear throughout the whole Course of the Conspiracy that the Jesuites would leave no stone unturned for the bringing about their ends, that they would play at small game rather then stand out, and their sometimes pushing on a Toleration, and labouring at others to Prorogue and Dissolve Parliaments, were influenced according to the several Postures of their Affairs which might be sometimes ready for Execution, and then perhaps they are for *Prorogueing or Dissolving*, or if something intervened that constrained 'em to wait for a fitter Opportunity, for the giving the Signal for the Main blow, might not they then labour for a Toleration which must needs have contributed very much towards the advancing their Projects.

And as for mean Men being admitted into the Pallaces of Princes, if Mr. *Settle* was not altogether ignorant of History, he would call to mind a thousand Instances of the lowest Creatures having access to, nay, even made familiar with the greatest Personages, when found fit Instruments for the carrying on their Designs.

And as to what he says of the Doctors Memory, those Instances he gives thereof are not so prodigious and unexampled unless in People to whom nature has been so stingy and niggardly of all its gifts, as it has been to Mr. *Settle*.

But Mr. *Settle wonders that the Jesuites should meet and consult for a fortnight together after the first discovery, and yet not have the least hint or notice of it.* Mr. *Settle* must needs think that the Jesuits had a very prevalent interest at Court, if they could smoak a discovery that was made against themselves, it would be as if a Man being informed of design's to ruine him and his Family, should nevertheless send word to the Traytours, that they had better refer 'em till another opportunity, for that he had notice of their practices, this Example would be something extraordinary.

And then for Mr. *Oates* not seizing any of those *Letters, Packets, Memorials, Proposals, Commissions*, that might have so coroborated his Discovery, as some he had only the sight of, so it would be madness to think he could take 'em away by force, as to those others he carried, he does not say but that he was accompanied by some of the Conspiracy; or if he was not, so manifest a proof of his Treachery, if one may call it so, to his Party, would cut off all means of his diving further into their Resolutions, and yet might be of little use, since perhaps, he could not have prov'd the hands: And as for that Courage of Mr. *Oates* which our *Narrative Hero*, is pleased so to droll upon, it shows that Mr. *Oates*'s whole care was even after the Discovery, not to give the *Jesuites* the least cause to suspect his being fallen off that so by a fair appearance he might insinuate and grow so well acquainted with the results of all their debates, even concerning the Discovery, as to reveal and prevent any hasty and fatal Resolutions, they might have taken thereupon; and though he began to give 'em some Umbrage, yet his persevering to come to 'em might reinstate him in their good Opinion, since they could not think him guilty of so much folly, as to venture himself among 'em, after having play'd them so foul a Pranck, especially knowing their Principles, to require their Dispatching, and hindring Criminals of that nature from doing further Mischief.

Well, But *Elkanah* has found out a new Projection to sport upon, namely, that the Fathers of St. *Omers*, viz. *Richard Ashley* Rector, *Edward Hall*, *Edward Nevill*, and *those* of the *English* Seminary, did Write to *Thomas Whitebread* and *other Fathers*, in *which was express't that it was now apparent that the* Catholick Religion *was to be brought in the same way that they had used for the destruction of the Father of this King, and at that could not be effected till much blood was spilt on both sides, so this must be effected by effusion of blood*, &c. Now that way Mr. *Settle* quotes Mr. *Oates* to affirm to be this.

Who besides the Popish Party, *were the first Authors and Contrivers of the late Unnatural War, by their known Diabolical Arts of Inflaming Parties and Passions against each other, and of your Royal Fathers Sufferings and Barbarous usage, it was those that brought him to his end, and flourish't Swords and triumphed over his dead Body, whom they durst not approach when living.*

Now, though the Issue of this Design was not according to the Project, that does not argue, they did not set it on foot, their business was to have fomented a Division, and so by weakning both Partys have destroyed both, they did not expect the one

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would have ſucceeded to that degree it did, and ſo ſpoiled their Meaſures; and as for ſome of 'em venturing their Lives, Eſtates, and Freedoms, in the *Royal Cauſe*, I ſhall need only to urge that in the moſt barbarous Nations, there be ſome perſons found, who are juſt, upright, honeſt and Loyal; beſides, might not many of thoſe who thus aſſerted the King's Cauſe do it with deſign as much as in them lay, to make the Ballance even, and might not thoſe others of 'em who flouriſht their Swords and Triumphed over his dead Body, leſs Politick and more Zealous do it out of a particular Spleen they had to the head of the *Proteſtant* Church; and that they were the Fomenters of thoſe unhappy Troubles, notwithſtanding all the Indulgence and Toleration they were allowed, I think is evident from their being uſhered in by that dreadful *Iriſh* Maſſacre, and ſo adieu to Mr. *Settle* and his Narrative.

Reflections upon the POSTSCRIPT.

AFter this Abſurdity hunter had thus endeavoured to turn the Plot into *Ridicule*, he continues in his Poſtſcript Vile-flying the Proceedings of the Nation, and beſpattering its Prudence with the moſt ſhameful of all Conducts.

Series of all the Tranſactions of the Houſe of Peers. pag. 9.

But in return to his Droll upon the 30000 *Spaniſh* Pilgrims, I ſhall need only to aſk if we had not Forces in *France* during the War between that Crown and *Spain*, had we not forces too in the *Low-Countries* for its Relief againſt his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, and yet neither the Confederates or the *French* hereby provocated to an open Rupture.

And how vain is what he would fain infer from the pretended great neglect in the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, ſeeing the Lord Chancellor acquainted the Houſe on the 26 of *Octob.* 1678. That the Duke of *Ormond* Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, being informed of the dangerous deſign there, againſt the Perſon of his Majeſty; and his Government hath ſecured the Perſon of *Peter Talbot* in *Ireland*, and hath iſſued out a Proclamation againſt Prieſts and Jeſuits, and hath taken examinations in the buſineſs, which his Lordſhip hath tranſmitted to his Majeſty.

And as for his Majeſtys Royal Perſon being expos'd, did not both Houſes addreſs to have the *Militia* talled for two and forty days.

And was there not a ſtrict Inquiſition made after Fire-works; nay, and were not ſeveral Cheſts of Cartrages found in Mr. *Choque*'s Houſe in the *Savoy*; and did not the late Lord Chancellor publickly averr, at the Sentence of the Lord *Stafford*, *That there hath been a general and Deſperate Conſpiracy of the* Papiſts; *and that the Death of the King, hath been all along one chief part of the Conſpirators deſign, it now apparent beyond all poſſibility of doubting, what was the meaning of all thoſe Treaties which were publiſhed about two years ſince, againſt the Oath of* Allegiance, *in a time when no Man dreamt of ſuch a Controverſy, what was the meaning of Father* Coniers's *Sermon upon the ſame Subject, but only becauſe there was a demonſtration of Zeal, as they call it, intended againſt the Perſon of the King, which the ſcruples ariſing from that* Oath *did ſomewhat hinder. To what purpoſe were all the Correſpondencies with Foreign Nations? The Collections of Money amongſt the* Fathers *abroad and at home? What was the meaning of their governing themſelves here by ſuch Advices as came frequently from* Paris *and* St. Omers? *And how ſhall we expound that Letter which came from* Ireland *to aſſure the* Fathers *that all things were there in a readineſs too, as ſoon as the Blow ſhould be given? Does any Man now begin to doubt how* London *came to be burnt? Or by what ways and means poor Juſtice* Godfrey *fell? And is it not apparent by theſe Inſtances, that ſuch is the* Frantick Zeal *of ſome* Bigotted Papiſts; *that they reſolve, no means to attempt the* Catholick Cauſe *ſhall be be left unattempted though it be by* Fire and Sword? *Stafford's* Tryal. *fol.* 213.

Series of the Houſe of Peers. pag. 45.

Now, *As for Mr.* Oates's *not being worth* 12 d. *and raiſed afterwards to* 12 l. *a Week*, yet ſhould be 700 worſe for the Diſcovery of the Plot, where can this Contradictionferret find out the Abſurdity of all this, might not Mr. *Oates* if the Plot had continued and he remained faithful to it, expected Promotions and rewards much more conſiderable than 700 of the *Papiſts*.

And as for the Maſſacre and Riſing, did not both Houſes on the ſixth of *December* 1678 make the following Addreſs to his Majeſty.

Series of the Houſe of Peers. pag. 139.

We your Majeſties moſt Loyal and Dutiful Subjects the Lords, Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in Parliament aſſembled, having ſufficient Teſtimony of the preſent danger, threatning your Majeſties Sacred Perſon and Government from the pernicious Plots and Contrivances of Popiſh Perſons *Univerſally ſpread over this your Majeſties Kingdom, do moſt humbly beſeech your Majeſty for the ſafety of your own Perſon and ſecurity of the Publick Peace of your Kingdom, to Command and require your Majeſties Sheriffs, Juſtices of the Peace,*

Peace, Mayors, and other Magiſtrates within their ſeveral and reſpective Countreys, Citys, and Places in Engand, *and* Wales, *to Apprehend, Diſarm, and ſecure all* Popiſh Recuſants, *and all others, who ſhall or may be juſtly ſuſpected* Papiſts, *and them to oblige in recognizance with ſufficient Bale to keep the Peace, and be of good behaviour, and in default thereof, them to Impriſon, and to return, the Names of ſuch Perſons with their Recognizances, to the next general Seſſions of the Peace, for their reſpective Limits to proceed thereupon according to Law.*

But the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in Parliament aſſembled poor men, happen to claſh in their Opinions with Mr. *Settle*, who charges 'em with the Apprehenſions of imaginary Dangers, and for his part he defy's the Eloquence of Angels to Convince any Rational man of the poſſibility of any thing like a Maſſacre, to be made by the *Roman Catholicks* hands in *England*. Nay, the Wag would fain perſwade us, that the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons, be Diſſenters, for he ſays one thing is ſtrangely remarkable that none are ſo vehement againſt Popery and Plots as the Diſſenters, for do not all their Votes ring with Conſpiracies and Popiſh Plots; nay, one would think he had a mind to bring in Majeſty it ſelf into the number, for has not the King in ſeveral Gracious Speeches declared as much? Did he not ſay in that he made on the 21*ſt* of *Octob.* 1678, *That he had been informed of a deſign againſt his Perſon by the Jeſuits, that he would leave the matter to the Law, and in the mean time take as much care as he could to prevent all manner of practices by that ſort of Men, and of others, who have been tampering in a high degree with Forreigners, and contriving how to Introduce* Popery *amongſt us.*

Now, notwithſtanding all this and many more Inſtances and Authorities, for the believing a Popiſh Plot, Mr. *Settle* ſays, that all *this is but ſetting up Shadows and Chimera's like ſo many* Ignes fatui, *to miſlead deluded Ignorance into Diſtraction and Rebellion, whilſt the great Knaves trale the Carrion, and the little Fools hunt after it:* Now dare not I for the Heart of me, imagine who Mr. *Settle* means by thoſe *Great Knaves* and *Little Fools*, but muſt needs ſay, that I think this Salley of his is the boldeſt piece of Extravagance and of Madneſs I have yet met with in a Perſon of Mr. *Settle*'s Conſtitution. But ſeeing Poets of Mr. *Settle*'s Rank are like to ſtarve ſince nothing now will paſs the Teſt but what is reaſonably good, ſince Belly Timber muſt be had, and that Hunger is one of the greateſt Incentives to Courage, why ſhoald we think it ſo prodigious an Attempt in him as to Attack and Stab the Evidence that has been given in againſt Popery, though under the Umbrage of Kings, Lords, and Commons, Mr. *Settle* is perhaps of the humour of *Lot*'s Wife, who upon a Pinch would even Curſe God, if that would give any eaſe, nay, would *Renegadoe* it every day rather than ſtand the Batteries of a Dun and the Importunities of a ſharp ſet Stomach; but allow him to be no ſuch *Proteus* ſort of Animal, and that his Spleen and Venome ſtill continues againſt the Papiſts and their Abbeters, may he not have written his Narrativr to ſhame them and their Cauſe by ſo ſcurrilous a Vindicator and Author. But to draw him more to the Life, our Narrative-jobber may be ſaid to be like thoſe Perſons who having for a while been reclaimed from their lewd Courſe of Life, yet growing weary of that reſtraint and giving way to the Vicioufneſs of their Temper burſt out of the Arms of their Charactable Redeemers plunge then again head long into all manner of wickedneſs, and like the Dog return to his Vomit.

ADVERTISEMENT.

SOme Remarks being come out in anſwer to Mr. Settle's *Narrative, whilſt the laſt two Sheets of this were in the Preſs. The* Reader *is deſired, not to be ſurprized, that ſomething in theſe Reflections do jump with that Ingenious Author's Obſervations.*

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